

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02547 122345Z

62

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 EB-11 AGR-20 AID-20

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12

PRS-01 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 OMB-01 TRSE-00

RSR-01 /192 W

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R 122251Z JUL 73

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8733

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS USUN 2547

ROME FOR SCALI

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAID, SWEL, UN

SUBJ/ SYG COMMENTS ON SAHELIAN DROUGHT, JULY 10

AT UN CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON HELD AT UN
HEADQUARTERS JULY 10, SYG WALDHEIM MADE FOLLOWING POINTS CONCERNING
SAHELIAN DROUGHT:

"THE SITUATION IN THE SUDANO-SAHELIAN COUNTRIES REMAINS
CRITICAL DESPITE THE QUICK RESPONSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COM-
MUNITY. OVER 450,000 TONS OF FOOD HAVE BEEN PLEDGED FROM
VARIOUS SOURCES AND A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF
SEEDS HAVE BEEN DELIVERED TO THE AFFECTED AREAS. ADDITIONALLY,
OVER \$7 MILLION HAS BEEN PLEDGED BY GOVERNMENTS IN RESPONSE
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PAGE 02 USUN N 02547 122345Z

TO THE FAO APPEAL AND THERE HAS BEEN IMPORTANT PRACTICAL

ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO THE AFFECTED COUNTRIES. THE CRUCIAL PROBLEM IS THAT OF TRANSPORTATION FROM THE PORTS TO THE STRICKEN AREAS. A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTS HAVE PROVIDED AIR TRANSPORT, AND FAO IS MAKING STRENUOUS EFFORTS TO IMPORVE THE SITUATION. AS YOU KNOW, FAO SERVES AS THE FOCAL POINT FOR THE UN RELIEF OPERATION. IN FACT, I DISCUSSED THIS ASPECT THOROUGHLY WITH MR. BOERMA WHEN I WAS RECENTLY IN ROME. I ASKED HIM TO TAKE OVER THIS OPERATION AS A FOCAL POINT FOR THE WHOLE UNITED NATIONS FAMILY. BUT YOU ARE ALSO AWARE THAT WE HAVE A COORDINATING OFFICE HERE IN THE UN HEADED BY UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL BRADFORD MORSE.

"ON MAY 18 ECOSOC CALLED UPON ME TO PROVIDE ARRANGEMENTS TO MEET THE MEDIUM-AND LONG-TERM ASSISTANCE PROBLEMS. AFTER INTENSIVE PREPARATORY DISCUSSIONS, A MEETING WAS HELD IN GENEVA ON JULY 28 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF BRADFORD MORSE, ATTENDED BY THE SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES OF 12 SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE APPROPRIATE UN PROGRAMMES. IT WAS AGREED THAT MR. MORSE SHOULD HAVE COORDINATING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE TIME BEING, WITH A SPECIAL OFFICE AT HEADQUARTERS HERE IN NEW YORK. IN THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED, THE PRINCIPAL MECAHNISM WILL BE THE PERMANENT INTERSTATE COMMITTEE WHICH IS CHAIRED BY MR. KAKOURE, THE MINISTER OF LIVESTOCK OF UPPER VOLTA AND ALSO THE PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF UNDP. THE UN WILL ESTABLISH A SMALL OFFICE IN OUAGADOUGOU, TO MAINTAIN THE LIAISON BETWEEN THE INTERSTATE COMMITTEE AND THE UN WORK IN THE FIELD. THESE PROPOSALS WERE ENDORSED BY ECOSOC AT A MEETING LAST FRIDAY.

"IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE PROBLEMS ARE FORMIDABLE, AND NO ONE CAN DOUBT THE EXTREME SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION. THE UN HAS BEEN VERY ACTIVE IN ITS ENDEAVOURS TO BRING ASSISTANCE AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT THESE INITIATIVES AND ACTIONS, IN COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED, WILL OVERCOME THE IMMEDIATE DIFFICULTIES AND WILL ENABLE US TO WORK TOWARDS A LONG-TERM SOLUTION."

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